

What is claimed is:

1. An article of ready-to-assemble (RTA) furniture comprising:
  - a pair of commonly-configured side panels, each having a closed slot extending along a substantial portion of the length of said side panel;
  - a base panel having a front edge and opposite side portions with side edges, said side portions configured to fit through and extend outward from said closed slot in a corresponding one of said side panels, said base panel defining a notch offset inboard from each of said opposite side edges for interconnecting with said closed slot in a corresponding one of said side panels as said base panel is moved toward one end of said closed slot; and
  - a locking member configured to wedge between an opposite end of said closed slot and said side portion of said base panel when said side portion extends through said closed slot.
2. The article of RTA furniture of claim 1, wherein:
  - said side panels define ground-engaging legs; and
  - said closed slot is arranged at a non-parallel angle relative to said ground engaging-legs.
3. The article of RTA furniture of claim 1, wherein said locking member defines an edge and said locking member is configured to wedge between said opposite end of said closed slot and said side portion of said base

panel with said locking member edge substantially contiguous with said side edge of said base panel.

4. The article of RTA furniture of claim 1, further comprising:

a back panel having opposite side edges and defining a notch offset inboard from each of said side edges, said notch sized to receive a top edge of a corresponding one of said side panels therein, said back panel including an extension defined between said side edge and said notch,

wherein said extension extends between said side portion of said base panel and said locking member so that said locking member is wedged between said extension and said opposite end of said closed slot to lock said extension and said side portion to a corresponding one of said side panels.

5. The article of RTA furniture of claim 4, wherein said locking member defines an edge and said locking member is configured to wedge between said opposite end of said closed slot and said extension and said side portion of said base panel with said locking member edge substantially contiguous with said side edge of said base panel and said side edge of said back panel.

6. The article of RTA furniture of claim 4, wherein:

said back panel includes a downward extending tab; and

said base panel defines a back panel slot for receiving said tab therein.

7. The article of RTA furniture of claim 6, wherein said tab includes angled opposite walls configured to wedge within said back panel slot.

8. The article of RTA furniture of claim 6, wherein said downward extending tab includes a ground-engaging edge to help support the article of RTA furniture.

9. The article of RTA furniture of claim 6, wherein:  
said tab of said back panel defines a base slot arranged to be situated adjacent the underside of said base panel when said tab extends through said back panel slot; and  
the article of furniture includes a second locking member configured to be wedged into said base slot with said locking member in engagement with said underside of said base panel.

10. The article of RTA furniture of claim 9, wherein said second locking member is elongate with opposite curved ends and having a length slightly longer than the length of said base slot.

11. The article of RTA furniture of claim 9, wherein:  
said base panel includes a padded portion having a thickness greater than the thickness of said side portions;

said closed slot has a width sufficient for said padded portion to pass therethrough; and

said base panel slot is arranged to contact the underside of said base panel when said side portions of said base panel are in contact with the upper side of said closed slot.

12. The article of RTA furniture of claim 6, wherein said pair of side panels defines at least two slots and the article of furniture includes a corresponding number of base panels and a corresponding number of locking members.

13. The article of RTA furniture of claim 12, wherein said extension extends only to a top-most one of said at least two slots of said pair of side panels.

14. The article of RTA furniture of claim 1, wherein said locking member includes an exposed edge and said locking member is configured so that said exposed edge is substantially coincident with a side edge of said base panel when said side edge extends through said closed slot and said locking member is wedged within said closed slot.

15. A ready-to-assemble (RTA) furniture system comprising:

a collection of identically-configured side panels, each having a closed slot extending along a substantial portion of the length of said side panels, said collection including sets of side panels having different aesthetic and functional characteristics;

a collection of base panels, each having a front edge and opposite side portions with side edges, said side portions configured to fit through and extend outward from said closed slot in a corresponding one of said side panels, said base panel defining a notch offset inboard from each of said opposite side edges for interconnecting with said closed slot in a corresponding one of said side panels as said base panel is moved toward one end of said closed slot, said collection including sets of base panels of different length and/or width dimension; and

a collection of locking members configured to wedge between an opposite end of said closed slot and said side portion of said base panel when said side portion extends through said closed slot.

16. The RTA furniture system of claim 15, further comprising:

a collection of back panels, each having opposite side edges and defining a notch offset inboard from each of said side edges, said notch sized to receive a top edge of a corresponding one of said side panels therein, each of said back panels including an extension defined between said side edge and said notch,

said collection including sets of back panels having different widths corresponding to the different widths of said sets of base panels,

wherein said extension is configured to extend between said side portion of said base panel and said locking member so that said locking member is wedged between said extension and said opposite end of said closed slot to lock said extension and said side portion to a corresponding one of said side panels.

17. A ready-to assemble (RTA) lamp assembly comprising:

an elongated vertical panel having a ground-engaging portion and a closed vertical slot;

an elongated transverse panel configured to slid through said slot, said transverse panel having a ground-engaging portion with a notch defined therein, and a pair of spaced apart upper notches at an end of said transverse panel opposite said ground-engaging portion, said upper notches spaced apart a distance substantially equal to the thickness of said vertical panel, said transverse panel having a length less than the length of said closed vertical slot;

a pair of support members sized to be press-fit into a corresponding one of said upper notches;

a top plate having a slot therein for receiving said vertical panel therethrough, said top plate mountable over said vertical panel so that said top plate is supported on said support members when said support members are press-fit into said upper notches; and

a locking member defining a curved portion configured to wedge into an upper portion of said vertical slot when said transverse panel is disposed through said slot so that said locking member bears against said top plate to wedge said top plate against said support members.

18. The RTA lamp assembly of claim 17, wherein said top plate defines an opening for supporting a lamp fixture.

19. The RTA lamp assembly of claim 18, wherein said top plate further defines a second opening for passing an electrical wire therethrough.

20. A ready-to assemble (RTA) picture frame comprising:

a front panel configured for viewing a picture therethrough, a first vertical slot adjacent one edge of said front panel and a first horizontal slot adjacent an opposite edge thereof;

a backing panel defining a second vertical slot adjacent one edge of said front panel and a second horizontal slot adjacent an opposite edge thereof, wherein said first and second vertical slots and said first and second horizontal slots are coincident when said front panel and said backing panel are in coincident contact;

a first support component sized to extend through said first and second vertical slots when said slots are coincident, said first support component defining a ground-engaging edge;

a second support component sized to extend through said first and second horizontal slots when said slots are coincident;

a first locking member sized to be wedged into said first and second vertical slots when said slots are coincident and when said first support component extends therethrough; and

a second locking member sized to be wedged into said first and second horizontal slots when said slots are coincident and when said second support component extends therethrough.